EML Accent

FALL 07

Volume 1

Mansfield University
English & Modern Languages Newsletter

Mi Viaje

–B. Vandruff

Bobbi Van Drufff in Chile , Summer 07

I spent a six week summer semester this past summer studying at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso in Valparaiso, Chile. Chile was recommended to me as a study abroad destination by other students who have traveled there before, but my decision was mainly based on the fact that the ISEP program placed students with local families. This aspect of the program made all the difference for me. I knew that total immersion was the only way for me to get the most out of learning the language. I learned just as much or more about the language and culture from the family that I lived with than attending classes. All of my bases were covered between the university and what I like to call home: academics and conversations and culture of everyday life. The family I lived with was welcoming, caring, and the hospitality was incredible.

[Continued on page 3]

Milwaukee March

-L. Pifer

Dr. Lynn Pifer is on a year-long sabbatical, during which she is writing "a book that examines a number of recently published novels that are set during and/or based on events from the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, such as Thulani Davis' 1959, Vicki Covington's The Last Hotel for Women, Sena Jeter Naslund's Four Spirits, and Anthony Grooms' Bombingham."

In September, Dr. Pifer traveled to Milwaukee to give a lecture and participate in a conference dedicated to the 40th Anniversary of the March(es) on the city. Dr. Pifer explained that "In 1962, Alder Vel Phillips (1st black woman Alder in Mil-

[Continued on page 2]

Please, send news, announcements, and contributions to: ksanner@mansfield.edu

The Beer Is Good Too

-D. Noll

Dustin Noll, German BSE 2005, recently began teaching in Austria and writes that "I'm doing great and am settled in. I had orientation last week in Graz, the second largest city in Austria. It was really beautiful. I came back to St. Poelten, the city where I'm living, on Friday, and met my flatmates, a British girl and another guy from the states. We are already planning a trip to Budapest in the near future. On Saturday we took the train to Vienna, which is only about 45 minutes. We just walked around, did some shopping and site-seeing. ....oh yeah, and the beer is excellent!!

The program is through the Austrian-American Fulbright Commission and provides recent college graduates who are proficient in German the opportunity to live in Austria for a school year and work in Austrian schools. I am required to teach twelve English lessons a week. I just came back from an orientation seminar in Graz and this week is my first week in the schools. I have had a great experience so far! The students seem to have many questions

[Continued on page 3]

CONTENTS

Welcome		
	International Students	5
	New & Visiting Faculty	6
Announcements		
	Conferences	7
	Study Abroad Reminders	2
	MULS SLAM	3
Contributions		
	The Beer is Good Too	1
	Mi viaje	1
	Milwaukee March	1
	Toulouse Skyline	4
News		
	Alumni News	6
	Faculty News	7
	Professor-Student Collab	6
	Study Abroad News	6
Q&A		
	Ed Kozaczka	3

ABOVE: Vel Phillips marching with Peggy Rozga, Father Groppi's widow and convener of the March on Milwaukee Conference & Commemorative March. RIGHT: Lynn Pifer on the Father Groppi Bridge.

Milwaukee March

[Continued from page 1]

waukee) proposed a Fair Housing ordinance to overturn the restrictive housing practices in the city. (African-Americans could not buy or rent in white neighborhoods despite horrendous overcrowding in the core of the city.) She proposed this ordinance every year for the next 5 years, and the entire time she was the only alder to vote for it. She was the victim of many threats and tons of hate mail. In 1967, Father James Groppi and the N.A.A.C.P. Youth Council (with members as young as 9 years old) volunteered to help Alder Phillips by Marching from the Af-Am neighborhood across the 16th St. viaduct (locally known as the Mason-Dixon line) and into the Polish neighborhood. The 200 peaceful marchers were met with an angry white mob of 1800. The mob threw bricks and bottles and threatened to kill everyone, especially Father Groppi. The Youth Council returned the next night with 300 marchers, and met a mob of 5000. Nevertheless Father Groppi and the Youth Council marched for 200 consecutive nights. They always marched with Commandoes—a disciplined group of volunteers that strategized every march and surrounded the marchers, helped keep the marchers in line and non violent, and they remained nonviolent themselves – unless someone attacked the marchers. Then they hit back. It was a new Northern take on King's nonviolent philosophy. Some nights they marched in the Mayor's neighborhood. Other nights they would pick an alderman or other city official to serenade. The marches didn't end until Milwaukee passed a Fair Housing Ordinance that was tougher than the Federal ordinance passed days after King was assassinated."Dr. Pifer's recent lecture and conference participation in Milwaukee directly fed into her sabbatical project. She reflects that "The lecture I gave in Milwaukee focused on events from the 1963 Birmingham civil rights campaign and two novels that try to depict ordinary citizen's reaction to the Movement (and violent racist responses to the

[Continued on page 4]

Study Abroad Reminders

Requirements, Timing, Deadlines

Study abroad programs at MU are exchange-based, to keep them affordable for our students. MU students in good academic standing (QPA of 2.75) can study abroad, although some programs have specific academic requirements. Most students would get more from their time abroad if they went for a semester in their junior year.

Early planning is critical: For the best chance to go where they want, when they want, and to study what they want, students ought to plan a year in advance. They should start by talking with their advisers, with me, with their families, and with students back from a semester in another country.

The ISEP program gives students who apply early the best placements. We have more freedom with our direct exchanges with Russia, Germany, Canada, France, Australia, and we can sometimes arrange a good placement later in the academic year. But it's important to keep in mind that even with the best planning, things can go wrong with getting passports, visas, plane tickets, and housing, so it's best to get started early.

[Continued on page 4]

"The march of the human mind is slow. "

—Edmund Burke

Mi Viaje

[Continued from page 1]

Although I spent quite a bit of time studying, I found plenty of time to travel and explore. For example, I hiked the foothills of the Andes, went horseback riding along the shore, and zip-lined across the Maipo River. I also spent a few days in historical Santiago, the capital of Chile. My favorite part of the trip was visiting the homes of my favorite poet, Pablo Neruda.

This journey has affected my life in many ways. As a mother, this experience has helped me show my children the importance of education, dedication, and an appreciation of different cultures, languages, and people in our world. Studying abroad has also given me a better understanding of who I am as a student and an aspiring teacher. I am grateful for this valuable experience and urge other students to take advantage of study abroad opportunities.

The Beer Is Good Too

[Continued from page 1]

and are also very excited about having a language teaching assistant in their classes.

That is where I am right now, but right after graduating from Mansfield in December of 2005, I received a full-time teaching position in the Chambersburg Area School District. I taught three levels of German: German I, Honors German, and Honors German II. I was also the advisor of the German Club. While teaching in Chambersburg, I also started to pursue another teaching certificate in English as a Second Language. I took two graduate courses in this program last year, and when I come home from Austria in June I plan on finishing the program and continuing to teach."

MULS SLAM Organization

The **MU Literary Societ**y is officially changing the group's name to **SLAM**, which stands for **Society of Literature at Mansfield**. The group, often referred to as MULS, decided that with the new faces we also needed a new name. The group has grown from a few upperclassmen to a young group of 7-10 freshmen and sophomores. Some of the activities we have sponsored this year include Banned Books Week, with a table of information set up outside of AHUB to spread awareness to the campus. We have also sponsored a Halloween Poe party, in which members, friends, and faculty were invited to read from works of Poe and enjoy some fall refreshments. SLAM is also taking submissions for *Edge City*, our literary magazine, for a Spring 2008 publication. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 1st, 2008 (email them to MU.literarysociety@gmail.com). We are accepting poetry, short stories, and for the first time, artwork. Some of our future activities include: celebrating author birthdays, sponsoring poetry readings, getting t-shirts, and taking a trip to see a play. For more information or to join the society, contact SLAM president, Amanda Shumway at shumwaam@mounties.mansfield.edu or one of the organization's faculty advisors, Dr. Harris aharris@mansfield.edu or Prof. Sullivan-Blum lblum@mansfield.edu.

Q & A with Ed Kozaczka

Ed Kozaczka, English BSE, 2007 started his graduate career at Binghamton University—SUNY this fall. The following is the transcript of a recent interview with him.

Q —You have been in graduate school for approximately two months, which means that your memories of your undergraduate career are probably still fresh, yet you now have this new experience to compare and contrast it with. What are some of the similarities and differences between undergraduate and graduate coursework? Could you describe a typical day in grad. school for us?

A —Well, there really aren't too many similarities between the coursework at the undergraduate level and the graduate level, besides the fact that the 19th-century canon hasn't really changed all that much and dangling modifiers still aren't acceptable in formal essays. To be honest, I am still shocked at how different the courework is at the graduate level. To take a more positive outlook first, there is definitely a lot more room to explore personal research interests while putting together term papers. For example, you aren't expected to always take a formalist approach when you are writing about a text. In fact, some graduate students get away with writing papers on novels without ever explicating a sentence from the work itself (not that I think this type of analysis is acceptable). On a more negative note, the coursework is outrageous, and it can definitely be depressing at times. I cannot remember reading more than six or seven novels for any English course at the undergraduate level; however, I find myself reading about that many in a three-week period for my graduate classes. I have come to accept the fact that graduate students are never entirely caught up with the reading and all of the outside research that is required. Just when you think that you have time to breathe and relax a little, three more novels and mounds of secondary readings are assigned. Although I am still in my first semester, I am confident in writing that after a few years of taking graduate courses, you will take practice GRE subject tests just for the fun of it. A typical day in graduate school really feels like two days crunched into one. After each class, but especially after any class that is theory-driven, my friends and I have to "walk it off."

[Continued on page 5]

Toulouse Skyline

-Hannah Killian

On this day last year, November 5, I took a train from Toulouse to the Pyrenees. My friends and I hitchhiked from the last town in France to Andorra la Vella, Andorra to buy tax-free clothing and alcohol. I remember on the way back we talked about the vast differences between cell phone plans in Europe and the US. It is hard to start writing about an experience that impacted your life so profoundly. I tried to begin this article by looking through my journal from last Autumn, when I studied abroad in Toulouse, France, but I found that mostly what I wrote about were things I wish I hadn't—my grades, my frustrations with the language, the Polish boy I adored.

This time, the college part of your life, is so weird. You have all these crazy experiences, but they all seem to be brushed off later in life—follies from your younger years. I hope I never get old and forget what this time was like. It's important to understand how different I am after living in France for just four months. I learned a lot about myself. I met a million new people. But living in Toulouse was so much more than that. Studying abroad in France was, more than anything for me, a time of vivid memories. I can't recall one bit of what I learned about French politics, the EU, or Le Chanson de Roland, but I remember exactly what the Toulouse skyline looks like from a balcony on the left bank of the river. I remember the energy of the thousands of students celebrating the release of the 2006 Beaujolais wine in the Place St. Pierre. I remember the capitol building lit up, the backdrop for the parade of rollerskaters flying past it every Friday night. I remember the heat of Café Populaire, our favorite dive bar, which was perpetually packed with students and cigarette smoke. I remember the croissants from the bakery on the way to my literature course at the other end of the city. I remember being picked up from the airport by my host mother, Mme. Cabanis, and driving through the city thinking, "How will I ever navigate this place?" But I did it, and I didn't see enough, because I didn't see everything. Honestly, I didn't do great things in France. I never even made it to Paris, but studying and living in Toulouse is the most significant experience of my life so far, and that is no folly. It is something I must never forget.

Place du capitol, Toulouse, France

Milwaukee March

[Continued from page 2]

Movement) at that time: Four Spirits and Bombingham. The problem I'm dealing with is that most all textbook accounts of the summer of '63 (and film versions and novels and plays and poems) connect the events of the civil rights protests with the bombing that killed four girls at the 16th St. Baptist church that September. All accounts I've come across go from fire hoses to four little girls. I'm trying to ask what happens when we let racist murderers have the last word (or, is that what these works do?) Can we move beyond the reactionary violence that the Movement attracted?"

In addition to having the opportunity to give a public presentation on her sabbatical leave project, Dr. Pifer noted that "the work being done at this conference directly related to my project on recent novels that depict events from the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. It gave me an opportunity to present my work in progress to other scholars in my field, and it gave me an unprecedented opportunity to meet and talk to civil rights activists, which will help me with my book project and with the civil rights courses I teach at Mansfield."

Study Abroad Reminders

[Continued from page 2]

MU Direct Exchanges

Our "direct" exchanges are those that MU negotiated one-on-one with specific universities in other countries. We currently have direct exchange agreements with universities in Russia, Germany, France, Canada, and Australia.

ISEP Exchanges: A one-for-one reciprocal exchange between ISEP members.

ISEP, the International Student Exchange Program, allows MU to exchange students with more than a hundred universities in nearly forty countries without an exact one-on-one equivalence with each partner university.

ISEP-Direct (fee-based) programs: A study abroad option for students to go abroad to an ISEP member university. An incoming student is **not** received in return at the home/sending institution.

For more details and available destinations for Fall 2008 and 2008-2009, go to:

[Continued on page 5]

"True and sincere traveling is no pastime, but it is as serious as the grave, or any part of the human journey…"
—Henry David Thoreau

Study Abroad Reminders

[Continued from page 2]

http://www.isep.org/Students/US_students/sites_open_us_applications.asp

Some examples of possible sites for study abroad:

Exchange placements in the UK are very competitive, but the University of Plymouth (academic year only) has a few openings for 2008-2009. The school has strong programs in business and sciences. The Combined Arts Program, consisting of majors in art history, English, heritage, history, media arts, theatre, and visual arts, welcomes ISEP students.

ISEP has many members and large openings in France (and overseas French territories), Germany and Austria, Spain and Latin America.

A Chinese Possibility:

This fall 2007 ISEP is opening a new ISEP-Direct semester program at **Peking University in Beijing**. Students can take elementary to advanced Chinese language (Mandarin) classes as well as Mandarin and Chinese culture classes offered in the political, educational, and cultural center of China.

Learning Italian in Italy:

ISEP-sponsored exchanges in **Italy** had required previous knowledge of the language at the intermediary level. The Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan is now offering a combination of some courses taught in English with any level of Italian (including for beginners).

Three-week summer ISEP-Direct program with Tartu University (Estonia): After Empire: The Collapse of Communism and Beyond, July 1 to July 20, 2008.

The program includes one week in each country (Estonia, Russia and Ukraine) with lectures in English by local professors. Special seminars and meetings with diplomats, businessmen and politicians are included, as well as visits to enterprises, governmental and NGO institutions and media firms. Cultural activities and tours provided in each city.

Six-week summer program in Toulouse with our partner the Institute of Political Science: lectures in English by local professors on international relations and the European Union, French classes, excursions and visits. June 9 to July 12, 2008.

For further details or for questions, please contact me.

Dr. Monique Oyallon
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Q & A with Ed Kozaczka

[Continued from page 3]

Q —From your observations and experience, what makes a person well-suited for graduate school? What characteristics or expectations should a person have?

A —Excellent time management skills! The average graduate student teaches an undergraduate class (or two), attends department meetings regularly, works a part time job, tries to make lasting friendships/relationships, and also manages to find time to do the work that is necessary to perform well in his or her own classes. Another important characteristic that is necessary in order to be successful at the graduate level is modesty. I have discovered that most of the graduate students who struggle in the program are the pretentious ones who walk in the door thinking that they know everything. Believe it or not, having a few weak points to work on, and acknowledging them, works to your advantage. That kind of attitude communicates to your professors and peers that you are open to a variety of ideas and that you are looking to grow personally, academically, and professionally. More importantly, it makes the program seem a lot more like a family - everyone works together as a team to help each other succeed.

Q —What advice would you give to a student who plans on applying to graduate school this year?

A —I think being as organized as possible is crucial and it will definitely make or break you in the application process. Every school has different application guidelines, and let's face it... English academics are anal. If you forget to sign your application, or if your letters of recommendation aren't sent the way they should be, you can kiss your application, the fifty dollars that you spent to have someone read it, and the GRE and transcript money goodbye. Perhaps a more important thing to consider though is the variety of programs that you apply to. I have to admit that this piece of advice comes from Professor Doerksen, but I would have to say that it is the most important piece of advice that I took when I was getting ready to apply to graduate programs. Save up enough money to apply to at least eight to ten programs (which will cost roughly around $800.00-$1,000.00). Trust me that it is money well spent! By doing this, you are giving yourself a lot more options. Out of the nine programs that I applied to, I was accepted to seven of them. Out

[Continued on page 7]

Welcome, International Students

This year the English and Modern Languages department welcomes several international students who are mostly based in our department this year:
Stephanie Peterseil (Austria), is taking French and Spanish,
Adèle Hertzog and **Nadège Berlier**, from France, are taking German, English literature, and ESL. **Vanessa Treney** (also from France) is taking Spanish. **Roland Habersack** (Austria) is taking English literature and grammar.

Professor and Student Collaboration

A result of collaboration between Prof. Jimmy Guignard and undergraduate Joe Gridley, the paper "Performing Grammar in the Classroom" examines the ways in which the debate on grammar instruction in the composition classroom plays out in practice at a small rural school. The collaboration began when Joe became interested in designing a grammar workshop for advanced English/ English Education majors. Joe piloted a model, which then became a point of reference in their discussions on the best way to teach students grammar. The pair read recent research on the teaching of grammar (most of which condemned prescriptive methodology), pedagogy, and sociolinguistics. Joe also interviewed other faculty to determine their methods for and reactions to teaching grammar. One conclusion of Jimmy and Joe's discussion and research focuses on the need to match the appropriate methods for teaching grammar to students' levels of preparation. In other words, as Lisa Delpit suggests, teachers need to consider students' cultural and scholastic background when deciding how to approach grammar in the classroom. As they discovered, many professors' teaching methods were shaped by students' needs, rather than the latest theory. Our research also suggests that a multiplicity of approaches to teaching grammar may be the best practice for teachers. One conclusion is undeniable: the debate on the most effective way to prepare students for dealing with issues of grammar is far from over. Guignard and Gridley presented the paper at the 2007 EAPSU Conference in October.

Alumni News

Richard Lupinsky is currently a 1L at Penn State Dickinson School of Law at University Park where he says "classes are rigorous but stimulating."

Study Abroad News

Fall 06: **Hannah Killian** (English BA), **Pamela Kline** (French BSE), and **Bijan Manavizadeh** (double major Pol. Science, French) spent the semester in Toulouse, at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, our exchange partner since 2004. **Pamela** is back in France this year, with an assistantship to teach English to elementary school children in Limoges. (Double major Chemistry and French) is doing her second year as an assistant in Albi (near Toulouse).

Khineesha Johnson (Spanish BSE) studied in Valparaiso, Chile.

Leah Burrous (English BA) spent the fall semester in Ulster.

Spring 07: **Anita Valerio** (Spanish BSE) studied in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Kathleen McCann (English major, German minor) participated in the exchange program in Jena (Germany). **Justin Pfaff** (BA Music, Political Science, Spanish minor) spent the semester in Argentina

Fall 07: **Emily Cole** (English BA) is currently in Sweden, studying at Växjö University.

Tasha Buffington and **Brittany McClain** are spending the year in Spain, respectively in Murcia and Pamplona.

Wesley Cromley (English BA) is in Volgograd, Russia, this fall as well.

Eric Czekner (BS Communications-Broadcasting, Minor Creative writing) is in Sweden this fall (Karlstad University).

Welcome New & Visiting Faculty

Professor Liubov Fomichenko is the Head of the English Philological Department at Volgograd State University, where she teaches such courses as English Theoretical Phonetics and Problems of Contemporary Linguistics. This semester she is a visiting exchange professor at Mansfield University, and she is currently teaching two courses: RUS 1101: Introductory Russian I and ENG 3320: Cross-Cultural Awareness: Russia and the West.

P**rofessor Rachel Adams** is teaching at Mansfield for the first time this semester as a temporary part-time faculty member. Professor Adams's area of expertise is teaching English as a second language to non-native speakers. This semester she is teaching two courses: ESL 1145: Advanced English for Non-Native Speakers and ESL 1112: ESL Composition. Professor Adams previously taught ESL courses for the University of California, Berkeley, and for Columbia University's online business program.

"Grammar is the logic of speech, even as logic is the grammar of reason."

—Richard Chenevix Trench

Faculty News

Dr. Fanny Arango-Keeth received a research grant award for her project "The Epistolary Correspondence of 19th Century Peruvian Women Writers". She conducted archival research in Peru to locate manuscripts, journals, and newspapers where these letters were originally published.

Dr. Arango-Keeth also presented the research paper "Constructing the Nation: Politics and Gender in Violetas del Anáhuac and in Los Andes" at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Canada in September, 2007. This paper covers themes related to the construction of a modern nation, the representation of women, and their transforming roles in patriarchal 19th century Latin America. In particular, it examines the work of Laureana Wright de Kleinhans (Mexico) and Clorinda Matto de Turner (Peru) in the journals they founded and directed, Violetas del Anahuac and Los Andes, respectively.

Dr. Jimmy Guignard presented papers at two conferences over the past year: "Learning and Rural Life: A Look at G. Stanley Hall's Education Rhetoric" at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina, June 2007 and "The Measure of Measures: A Rhetorical Analysis of Joseph Rice's Social Efficiency Theory of Education"at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New York, March 2007.

Describing the first presentation, Dr. Guignard examines the ways in which Stanley Hall's writing draws upon the rhetorical traditions of natural history by observing children in the field, so to speak, in order to make arguments for educational reform during the early 1900s.

For "The Measure of Measures," Guignard analyzes the education writing of Joseph Mayer Rice, the first reformer to apply principles of scientific management to educational practice (and a contemporary of Hall's). In order to persuade the public to support his ideas on education, Rice uses what one might label his "rhetoric of measurement" which relies heavily on statistics, comparison, and Rice's sense of universal measures to argue his case and to provide a basis for his rational and emotional appeals. Unfortunately, Rice's measures were not sound, though his reforms have had a lasting impact on education.

[Continued on page 8]

Conference Opportunities for Students

Submissions for **Susquehanna University's Undergraduate Literature and Creative Writing** conference are due December 3rd. Students can see Dr. John Ulrich for details or consult the CFP: http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/General/0087.html

California University of Pennsylvania will host the next **EAPSU Undergraduate Conference** on March 29, 2008. The theme is "I dwell in Possibility," from the Emily Dickinson poem. Further details about the conference and the deadline for submissions will be announced soon.

Q & A with Ed Kozaczka

[Continued from page 5]

of those seven, only three of them offered me funding. After speaking with a lot of the professors I had at the undergraduate level, and as Professor Sanner put it, after a lot of "soul searching," I finally decided to go to Binghamton (which conveniently ended up offering me a full ride). The funding is definitely not the most important thing to consider, but at the very least it should be the second most important thing. Another piece of advice that I would give to a student who plans on applying to graduate programs this year would be to network with the professors in the departments that you plan on applying to. Out of the nine programs that I applied to, I visited six of them, and with the University of Minnesota being the exception, all of them accepted me into their program. In fact, the professors I met with at Binghamton remembered me when I started the graduate program here. The last piece of advice, and probably the least significant, would be to study how to take the GRE's and do the best you can do on them. In the end, the scores will not matter as much as you may think. It is true that some programs emphasize the GRE scores more than others, but as Professor Guignard asked me, do you really want to go to those kinds of programs that take a standardized test score so seriously?

Q —Would you describe the process you followed as you both determined where to apply and then applied?

A —I looked at universities that were ranked the highest by various search engines, talked with professors at Mansfield to see which schools would accommodate my research interests the best, and then looked at a lot of school websites. I think the pages that I concentrated on the most were the pages that described the research interests of the faculty members and the financial aid packages that were offered to graduate students. Taking Professor Doerksen's advice once again, I chose three schools that were way out of my league, three that I felt I may have had a chance of getting into, and three "gimme" schools. Then, once I came up with my list of schools, I e-mailed a few of the faculty members with a list of questions that were not answered on the school websites. I tried to e-mail professors who shared some of my research interests. Once the professors got back to me, I set up appointments to meet with them during their office hours so that I could have one-on-one conversations with them in person. I also wanted to have an opportunity to see the campuses and meet a few of the graduate students who were already going through the programs. I applied to the nine schools that I felt would fit my needs the best.

Q —I know that you were accepted to several programs. What made you finally decide to go to Binghamton?

A —This was one of the most difficult decisions that I had to make, and it didn't help that the professors at Mansfield were torn, 50/50, about which school I should attend. At first, Binghamton did not offer me any funding, but two of the other schools that accepted me offered me full rides. After eliminating one of those programs from my list, I still had to make a decision between Binghamton and Duquesne. Although the latter offered me more money, I was a lot more attracted to Binghamton's faculty

[Continued on page 9]

Prof. William Keeth has recently returned from Montreal, Canada, where he presented his research paper "La naturaleza, la nación, la mujer y el sujeto poético dentro del imaginario político de Lugones." at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Canada in September, 2007. His paper analyzes the relationship that Leopoldo Lugones establishes between the poetic voice and natural and feminine imagery. It delineates the poet's ideological position, correlating it to nationality, identity, and feminism.

Last March, Prof. Keeth presented another paper entitled "La poetología surrealista latinoamericana en torno a la imagen visual" at the 2007 Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. In this paper, he demonstrated how over time three contemporary writers have helped construct the theoretical frame of reception for Manuel Álvarez Bravo's photography.

Dr. Lynn Pifer was invited to give a lecture on her sabbatical project, "The Literary Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement," at the University of Wisconsin at Waukesha's Visions & Expressions Lecture Series on September 25, 2007. She also led a conference session on "Teaching the Civil Rights Movement" at the 2007 March on Milwaukee Conference, which commemorated the open housing marches that occurred in Milwaukee forty years ago. While in Milwaukee, she also attended the 9/27/07 production of Dr. Margaret Rozga's play, March On Milwaukee: A Memoir of the Open Housing Protests. The conference began with a museum opening and ended with a commemorative event on the James E. Groppi Unity Bridge.

Dr. Linda Rashidi participated in a National Endowment for the Humanities institute, Berber North Africa: the Hidden Mediterranean Culture, this past summer at Oregon State University. She joined 19 other scholars from all over the US who are also doing research in some aspect of Berber studies. As a result of this month of intensive immersion in Berber, she has been able to jumpstart her own work with Berber women's aHwash oral narrative. She has a new collaborator, a native speaker of Tachelhit, the variety of Berber spoken in the village where she lived for three summers, who is transcribing tapes she made in 2001.

While on sabbatical leave last year teaching at St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University in Bulgaria, **Dr. Rashidi** began a collaborative project with a colleague there, Christo Stamenov. They have been investigating how meaning is construed in different versions of the same text, "When Men Were Men," based on a short story by one of Bulgaria's most famous authors, Nikolai Haitov. They analyzed the original Bulgarian text and the compared it to the English translation by Michael Holman, as well as the film version. This work, entitled "Translation of a Wild Tale," was presented at the annual LACUS conference at Eastern Kentucky University in July and will be submitted for publication.

Dr. Kristin Sanner presented a paper entitled "Reading Heads: Phrenology, Sentimentalism & the Author in Fanny Fern's Ruth Hall" at the 2007 NEMLA conference in Baltimore this past March. The paper explores the way Fern exploits the popular, sentimental market, in order to present herself in a favorable light while seeming humble, and appeals simultaneously to both the rational and emotional in her readers through the use of autobiographical satire and interior monologues. In August she traveled to Montreal to present "Mr. Merdle's Dead Body as Text: Medical Authority in Dickens' *Little Dorrit*," at the annual Dickens Symposium. The paper examines the body as a site of textual narrative and considers the way Charles Dickens's *Little Dorrit* processes and imitates the reading of bodies and exhibits the collisions that occur when bodily control, containment and eradication meet with narrative representation.

Prof. Louise Sullivan-Blum's memoir: *You're Not From Around Here: A Lesbian in Small-Town America* will be re-released by the University of Wisconsin Press as an e-book.

Dr. John Ulrich presented his paper, "Confessions of Two Dangerous Minds: Thomas Carlyle and Chuck Barris," at the Carlyle Resartus conference held at Villanova University on July 12 and 13. Dr. Ulrich's paper examines the strange convergence of two signs of their respective times: Thomas Carlyle, the Victorian "sage," dyspeptic historian, and controversial cultural critic; and Chuck Barris, the controversial TV personality, relentless self-promoter, creator of *The Dating Game* and *The Newlywed Game*, and creator and host of The Gong Show. In his *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind: An Unauthorized Autobiography*, Barris makes the rather startling claim that he also worked covertly as an assassin under contract with the CIA while producing his game shows, and at one point he praises Thomas Carlyle as "one of my heroes." The film version of the book, also called *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (directed by George Clooney), amplifies this connection through multiple direct and indirect references to Carlyle. Dr. Ulrich's paper examines these references in the context of what critics have called the "Victorian afterlife," or the way in which the postmodern culture is said to "rewrite" the nineteenth century. In *Confessions*, he argues, this rewriting occurs in more than one way; we have the meeting of two dangerous minds, but their meeting is made possible only by a re-writing and re-interpretation – a re-tailoring – of each.

Dr. Ulrich also attended the annual faculty and graduate student conference of the English Association of the Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU), held at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The conference theme this year was "Literacy and Performance."

Dr. Edward T. Washington received one of three University-sponsored Alternative Work Assignment grants to conduct research on his project entitled Beyond Cultural Stereotypes: The Dramatic Meanings of Shakespeare's Black Characters. The grant award included funds to support a student research assistant, Stephanie Johnson, a junior Nursing major at Mansfield.

[Continued on page 9]

"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."

—Zora Neale Hurston

ΣΤΔ

Sigma Tau Delta News

This fall the English Department reactivated the MU chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. The organization's website (<http://www.english.org/>) describes its focus as "confer[ring] distinction upon students of the English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies. Sigma Tau Delta also recognizes the accomplishments of professional writers who have contributed to the fields of language and literature." In order to join, students "must have completed at least three semesters or five quarters of college work and a minimum of two college courses in English language or literature beyond the usual requirements in freshman English" and have at least a 3.3 GPA. In addition to providing members with academic distinction, members in the organization are eligible to compete for scholarships, can submit their scholarly or creative work to the organization's two journals and can apply to present essays at the annual conference.

Twelve members joined the MU chapter this semester and elected the following officers: Joe Gridley, President; Brittany Serafini, Vice-President; Jesse Allen, Secretary; Sara Moyer, Treasurer. Already the group has sponsored a Holiday Tree Fundraiser and has generated ideas for upcoming events and activities. If you're interested in learning more about the society, contact one of the faculty advisors: Dr. Kristin Sanner, Dr. Jimmy Guignard or Dr. John Ulrich.

Faculty News

[Continued from page 8]

Dr. Washington also presented a paper entitled "'A Matter of Policy': Reassessing Aaron's Sexual Role in *Titus Andronicus*"at the 35th Annual Convention of the Shakespeare Association of America, April 2007, in San Diego and had his editorial article "WHY BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS IMPORTANT"published in the Elmira Star Gazette in February 2007.

Additionally, **Dr. Washington** took a group of Drama and Shakespeare students to the Shakespeare Theater in Washington, DC , April 2007, to see Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus. It was the first time that this play had been produced at this top flight Shakespearean playhouse. More recently, as co-chair of the African American Studies Minor he oversaw the revision of the program requirements. A new, updated minor program format went into effect for Fall 2007.

Q & A with Ed Kozaczka

[Continued from page 7]

and the school's location. After a lot of tossing and turning at night, I finally decided to accept Binghamton's offer - before they offered me any money. It came down to the fact that I felt as if I would have better mentors here at Binghamton, and as it turns out, I was right. Although I didn't choose the school that offered me money up front, I am not sure I would advise another student to make a decision like that. All I can say is that if you are torn between two or three programs at the beginning of the summer, and the deadlines for acceptance are approaching, the best thing you can do is to go with your gut.

Q —You earned a BSE in English and could easily have moved right into a secondary education career. Do you ever regret not following that path? What do you think you've gained or lost from following the path you chose?

A —I still find myself going back and forth on this issue. I really have a passion for teaching at the high school level, and even after I was accepted to graduate programs, I still considered declining the offers so that I could teach for a few years. In the end, I knew that even if I went all the way through a PhD program, I would always have the option of returning to the high school setting if I wanted to (and I may decide to do that in the future). Of course, making the decision to go on to graduate school has forced me to continue pinching pennies and live off of Hot Pockets and macaroni and cheese, but I can honestly say that I do not regret my decision to continue my education. Whether I decide to teach at the high school level in the future or finish up my PhD and go on to be a professor, at least I will never have to look back and say "I wonder what would have happened if..."

As the editors of the Accent, we want you to know that we are grateful for any comments, concerns, or more importantly contributions to the next volume.

With any luck the next EML ACCENT will be even better.

Kristin Sanner
Bill Keeth